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# REPORT

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Polish ships making the runs to Western Europe, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, the Far East, South Africa, and South America are reported to be manned with the crews and officers who are considered by Warsaw as the least "desirable." Ships travelling to the United States, both tramp and regular lines, however, are operated under special conditions. Crews of the latter are carefully screened by the US and generally have families in Poland. The captains, for the most part, are members of the Polish Workers' Party (PPR).

2. As the first group of graduates from the Merchant Marine Officers' School in Szczecin reach the service, the older and less trusted men will gradually be eliminated and replaced by the younger "socially and politically desirable" group. It is believed that this change-over will take place in approximately two years. However, in view of the fact that the Polish Merchant Navy is still forced to use many "undesirable" persons, each ship carries at least one representative or "guardian angel" from the US.

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